



*Produced quarterly by the State Equal Employment Management Office (SEEM)*

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### California National Guard and the "SEEM Team" Bids Farewell to Sergeant Major (Ret) Betty J. McCoy

After serving in the military for over 30 years, Sergeant Major (Ret) Betty J. McCoy has retired. Not only was she an excellent leader and role model for many people, she was also a friend. She will be greatly missed. The California National Guard and EEO/EO Office will not be the same without her. Congratulations on your retirement, SGM (Ret) McCoy!

### California National Guard Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday in January

On Friday, 12 January 2007, the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) celebrated the achievements and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr.

Here are a couple of pictures from the

Dr. MLK, Jr. observance.



Lieutenant Colonel Sonja Lucas, the guest speaker (left side) and Ms. Graciela Contreras, the Mistress of Ceremonies (right side)



Mr. Ferdinand LeCompte, State Equal Employment Manager

#### *"I Have a Dream"*

Here are some excerpts of the most influential and famous speech that Dr. MLK, Jr. delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1963.

*"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."*

*"And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"*

### **"From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas"**

The title above was the national theme for this year's Celebration of African-American (Black) History Month observance. The observance took place on Monday, 5 February 2007 at the JFHQ cafeteria.

One of the major highlights of the observance was the dance performance by two groups, Omega Psi Phi and P.U.R.E. The EEO/EO office would like to give special thanks and recognition to the following individuals for taking time out of their busy schedules and doing an outstanding performance.

#### Omega Psi Phi

- Hermon Brown
- Chauncey Corbin
- David Green
- Koji Jitosho
- Ryan Lee

P.U.R.E.

- Vanessa Balsley
- Jatoyeria Clark
- Mur-ray Colbert
- Darius Galloway
- Josh McKnight
- Denita Pickens-Jones  
(Executive Director/Founder)
- Douglas Walker
- Brittany Williams
- Jason Wilson

Another highlight was the guest speaker, Colonel James Robertson.

Below are a couple of pictures from the Celebration of African-American (Black) History Month observance.



Master Sergeant Joe Ann Ridder, the Mistress of Ceremonies



A few of the dance performers

## California National Guard Observes Women's History Month in March

An observance celebrating Women's History Month was held on Monday, 5 March 2007 at the JFHQ cafeteria.

Following are a couple of pictures from the Women's History Month observance.



Major Kathleen Fallis of the California Air National Guard, last year's National Guard Bureau "Women's History Month Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics" award winner was the guest speaker.



First Lieutenant Sonja Moore, singer

## Guess who the person below is!



Below are some clues about him.

- Known as the "Father" of Black History

- Second African-American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University
- Founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History
- Son of former slaves James Henry and Anne Eliza (Riddle) Woodson
- Born 19 December 1875 in New Canton, Virginia and died 3 April 1950 in Washington, D.C.

The answer is at the end of the newsletter. Stay tuned!

## National Guard Bureau EEO/EO and Civil Rights 2007 Annual Training Conference



**Dates:** Monday, 30 April – Friday, 4 May 2007

**Travel Dates:** Monday, 30 April and Saturday, 5 May 2007

**Location:** Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Place:** Hilton Hotel (Downtown Minneapolis)



## Graduates

Let's congratulate the following recent graduates from

## Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI):

- LTC James-Michael Yates (JFHQ)

- Maj Connie O. Y. Wong  
(129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing)
- CPT Mary Scott  
(115<sup>th</sup> ASG)
- MSgt Steven Thune  
(144<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing)
- SFC Rebecca Calleja  
(40<sup>th</sup> CAB)

### Upcoming Celebrations

- Holocaust Remembrance Day  
(15 April 2007)
- Days of Remembrance  
(15 – 22 April 2007)
- Asian Pacific Month  
(1 – 31 May 2007)

### From the 144<sup>th</sup> FW MEO, Major Raymond Greer



#### Museum Celebrates Black History Month

by Rob Bardua  
National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

26 Jan 2007 – **DAYTON, Ohio (AFNEWS)** – As part of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force's celebration of Black History Month in February, several exhibits in the Air Power Gallery feature contributions from prominent black Airmen in Air Force history.

The exhibit features General Daniel James Jr., the Air Force's first black four-star general; Lieutenant General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., the first of the famous Tuskegee Airmen to become a general; and the 332nd Fighter Group, a segregated black unit stationed at Lockbourne Air Base near Columbus, Ohio, that won first place in the conventional class category of the 1949 U.S. Air Force Fighter Gunnery Competition.

During World War II, the U.S. military segregated African Americans into separate units. However, the U.S. Army Air Forces gave blacks a unique opportunity to do sophisticated engineering work in segregated Engineering Aviation Battalions. These specially trained units constructed, concealed, maintained, and defended airfields in every theater.

Eventually, these black Airmen disproved the unfortunate belief that blacks could not do complicated construction or engineering work. The museum's exhibit portrays a scene of black aviation engineers working on an airfield in the China–Burma–India Theater.

The USAF published regulations dismantling segregation 1 June 1949, thus becoming the first of all U.S. military service branches to complete integration of black Airmen into all-white units. This story is presented in an exhibit titled "Integration of the USAF."

The museum also features an exhibit on the Tuskegee Airmen. On 19 July 1941, the AAF began a program in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots. Primary flight training was conducted by the Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, the famed school of learning founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881. The exhibit presents uniforms, photos, and other mementos of the Tuskegee Airmen.

**The first Black general** was Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., who was appointed on 16 October 1940.

**The first Black general in the U.S. Air Force**—and the second Black general—was B.O. Davis, Jr., the son of the first Black general, who was appointed on 27 October 1954. He retired in 1970 with the rank of lieutenant general.

**The first Black four-star general** was Daniel (Chappie) James, who was promoted to that rank and named Commander-in-Chief of the North American Air Defense Command on 1 Sep 1975.

**The first Black Admiral in the U.S. Navy** was Samuel Lee-Gravely, Jr., who was appointed on 28 April 1971.

**The first Black to head an armed forces base in the United States** was B.O. Davis, Jr., who was named commander of

Godman Field (KY) on 21 June 1945.

**The first Black to command an Army division** was Major General Frederic E. Davidson, who assumed command of the Eighth Infantry Division in Germany on 19 April 1972.

**The first Black general in the Marine Corps** was Frank E. Peterson, Jr., who achieved the rank on 23 February 1979.

**The first Black to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor** was Sergeant William H. Carney, who was cited for gallantry in the charge of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers on Fort Wagner in the Charleston, South Carolina harbor on 18 July 1863.

**The first Black awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor** after the Spanish-American War was Private First Class William Thompson of Brooklyn, N.Y., who was cited posthumously on 21 June 1951 for heroism in Korea.

### JFHQ's EEO/EO Office Website

The JFHQ's EEO/EO Office website has a lot of information which is provided to you. Please go to the following website address:

[www.calguard.ca.gov/cahr/eo\\_eeo.html](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/cahr/eo_eeo.html).

There, you will find policy letters, forms, publications, Meet Your EEO Staff flyer, quarterly newsletter(s), among other information.

If you have any questions pertaining to the website, please call the JFHQ's EEO/EO Office at (916) 854-3646, 3421, 4451, and 3407. DSN is 466.

### Happy Spring!



**Answer:** The name of the person in the picture is Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

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